

MINUTES OF MEETING
State Board of Education
January 16, 2003

The January meeting of the Board of Education was held in the State Board Room, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines. Board members Gene Vincent, Sally Frudden, Charles Edwards, Jr., Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, Greg McClain, Mary Jean Montgomery, Don Roby and Kay Wagner were present. Also present were Department Director Ted Stilwill and Department staff Gail Sullivan, Lee Tack, Judy Jeffrey, Jan Friedel, Carol Greta, Ann McCarthy, Evelyn Anderson, Kathi Slaughter, Beverly Bunker, Joe Farnsworth, Mary Beth Schroeder-Fracek, Beverlee Adams, Richard Latch, Brenda Colby, Linda Miller, Evelyn Anderson, Karen Poole, Michelle Tosel and Laurie Phelan. Also present were Robin Madison and Dwayne Ferguson, Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Kathy Bolten, *Des Moines Register*, Todd Dorman, *Lee Newspapers*, Rod Boshart, *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, Gene Gardner, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees, Robert Paxton, Iowa Central Community College, Barb Crittenden and Chris Duree, Southwestern Community College, Lew Finch and Paula Vincent, Cedar Rapids Community School District, Anita Westerhaus, Sacred Heart School, Lee and Bonnie Meier, Sioux Central Community School District, William Garner, Arrowhead AEA 5, Steve Graham, Cedar Rapids Community School District, Robert Longmuir, New Hampton Community School District and Bill Kruse, Storm Lake Community School District, Dennis Bahr, Kim Rost, AEA 5, Mary Maley, AEA 3, and Bonnie Baum, Superintendent, Sioux Central Community School District.

President Vincent called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

The January 16, 2003 agenda was approved.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Board Reports

Greg McClain reported he felt the reception was successful and that the Board should use the same procedure in the future. He thought it was a good return on investment.

Don Roby indicated he had attended the Community College Council meeting and most of those topics would be on the State Board agenda. He reported Dr. Wayne Korberdahl was the replacement for Linda Upmeyer on the Community College Council. Roby felt the legislative reception was a positive experience and thought inviting all legislators was a good idea.

Sally Frudden felt this was the best legislative reception the Board had hosted. She thought the interaction was informative and the attendance was good because all legislators were invited. Frudden reported she had attended the Area 2 Superintendent's meeting and indicated Director Stilwill was in attendance to talk about No Child Left Behind.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick said she enjoyed her first Board legislative reception and felt there was a lot of support for community colleges. She indicated she would encourage the same format for the annual reception. Fitzpatrick reported she had also attended her first Post High School Education meeting and was pleased to have so many representatives of all facets of education present at the table.

Mary Jean Montgomery felt the Board reception for legislators was a success. She suggested that next year the Board have information about legislators prior to the reception and extend a special invitation to legislators in their own districts. Montgomery indicated she had also attended an Iowa Public Television meeting and also met with the Foundation of Iowa Public Television.

Charles Edwards – No report.

Kay Wagner indicated she felt the legislative reception was very worthwhile and was pleased that legislators were aware of the education agenda for this session.

Gene Vincent stated that he had attended the Condition of the State briefing held by the Governor and Lt. Governor and was pleased the State Board had been invited.

Director Report

Director Ted Stilwill said he would give his report as each item of the agenda was being discussed. He felt the legislative reception was successful and thought the Board had set a clear legislative agenda. Stilwill felt that legislators appreciated the direction and priorities set out for this year.

Consent Agenda

Minutes

The minutes of the November 20-21, 2002 meeting were approved with the following amendment:

Greg McClain did not disagree with the concept of using a high grade point average as a criteria for selecting a student member of the State Board; however, he stated that this was not consistent with the Board's previous decision not to set a statewide grade point standard for athletic eligibility.

Rules

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 18 School Fees as proposed was approved for notice of intended action.

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 51 Approval of On-the-Job Training Establishments as proposed was approved for notice of intended action.

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 52 Approval of Education Institutions for the Education and Training of Eligible Veterans as proposed was approved for notice of intended action.

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 1, Student Member on the State Board of Education as proposed was approved for adoption.

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 17, Open Enrollment as proposed was approved for adoption.

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter XX, Rescind Charter Schools as proposed was approved for adoption.

Specially Accredited College Prep School

The Ideal Girls School as proposed was approved as a Specially Accredited College Preparatory School.

Appeal Decisions

Administrative Law Judge, Carol Greta, reviewed the appeal decision In re Jon Francis. She indicated the Appellant is seeking reversal of a decision of the Alta Community School District Board of Directors made on September 26, 2002, finding that her son had violated the District's good conduct rule and upholding the punishment given to Jon by the District administrators.

Motion: Sally Frudden moved and Sister Jude Fitzpatrick seconded that the decision of the Board of Directors of the Alta Community School District made on September 26, 2002, to punish Appellant's son pursuant to its good conduct policy, be affirmed.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Carol Greta, administrative law judge, reviewed the appeal decision In re Janet Weichers. Greta indicated the Appellant is seeking reversal of a decision of the Hawkeye Community College Board of Trustees made on June 26, 2001, finding that its Special One-Time Retirement Incentive program did not apply to her. Appellant failed to show she was being treated differently from similarly situated employees and failed to show that the Board's decision was unreasonable.

Motion: Don Roby moved and Mary Jean Montgomery seconded that the decision of the Hawkeye Community College Board of Trustees to deny additional retirement benefits to Appellant be affirmed.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Rules: Chapter 83, Teacher Quality Program

Judy Jeffrey, Administrator, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education presented an overview of Chapter 83 and the requirements of House File 2549 requiring modifications to the Student Achievement and Teacher Quality Program. Jeffrey indicated the Department was required to adopt rules guiding the provision of evaluator approval providers, the development of local teacher evaluation plans, and the development of Individual Teacher Career Development Plans.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick indicated she had a concern on the rule application. She felt the same rules should apply to both public and nonpublic.

Motion: Mary Jean Montgomery moved and Kay Wagner seconded that the State Board approve the amended 281, Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 83, Teacher Quality for Notice of Intended Action.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

No Child Left Behind

Director Ted Stilwill stated the difficulty in keeping up with the fast moving requirements and changes by this federal legislation. He was proposing an ICN meeting to be held in February to update the Board. Stilwill indicated that Iowa was scheduled for a Peer Review in March.

Judy Jeffrey, Administrator, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education and Dr. Lee Tack, Administrator, Division of Financial and Information Services were available to present this agenda item. Jeffrey stated that federal legislation, No Child Left Behind (NCLB), required states to add additional academic indicators for Adequate Yearly Progress for each public school, public district, and state. One of the indicators required is the graduation rate. She indicated a state must establish a specific grade within each of the following grade spans, (3-5), (6-9), and (10-12) at which science will be assessed. Since Iowa already requires 8th and 11th grade for science assessment it is necessary to establish one elementary grade for science assessment. There must also be one additional elementary and middle school indicator. These indicators must be submitted in the state's plan to the U.S. Department of Education by January 31, 2003.

Dr. Tack reviewed criteria that were needed prior to reporting the accurate graduation rate. A student record system needed to be in place and he indicated that system should be available in all districts by spring, 2003. Tack indicated a training period would need to be held with the local school districts on the data collection process. He noted that after these plans were in place, data could then be collected.

Jeffrey indicated the Department was asking for State Board support to move forward with these proposed requirements.

President Vincent stated there was no opposition to the information presented and the Board gave full support to the Department to move ahead in meeting the requirements of the NCLB Act.

Iowa Central Community College Focus Evaluation

Evelyn Anderson, Chief, Bureau of Community Colleges and Career and Technical Education reviewed the recommendations and the purpose of the focus report. She reported the Department of Education team had conducted a focus evaluation visit to Iowa Central Community College in December 2002. Anderson indicated that a focus visit is conducted under the authority of Iowa Code 260C.47 for accreditation of community colleges. The evaluation for Iowa Central Community College was to determine the degree to which the college and the Board of Trustees had successfully implemented and utilized corrective measures to address charges of falsification of student records and subsequent issues raised during the investigation analysis. Anderson noted that the focus evaluation was not about the criminal investigation, proceedings or outcomes, but about the integrity of current student transcripts and the student record system.

Ms. Anderson appreciated the cooperation that President Paxton and his staff had offered in providing materials and assistance to the evaluation team.

Motion: It was moved by Sally Frudden and seconded by Don Roby that the State Board accept and approve the focus evaluation report as submitted.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations for Modification of the Community College Strategic Plan

Don Roby, Chair, Community College Council and State Board member reviewed this agenda item. The Community College Strategic Plan was approved and adopted by the Board in December 2000. In August of 2002 the Board reviewed the report and requested that the community college strategic plan be revised to include goals or initiatives that would enhance recruitment, enrollment, retention, and success of women and minorities in community college programs. Roby indicated that a draft of a strategic goal and initiatives to address this issue were developed. These changes were then communicated with the community college presidents and community college trustees prior to bringing this proposal to the State Board. Roby noted these groups embraced the change in the plan.

Board members felt this was an articulate subgroup and that they had taken an important step in developing this stand-alone goal.

Motion: It was moved by Don Roby and seconded by Kay Wagner that this proposal to amend the Community College Strategic Plan be approved as presented.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Condition of Community Colleges Report

Janice Friedel, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation reported that the purpose of this report is to review the Iowa Community College programs and related services. She indicated the data in the report was taken from FY 1999-2000, FY 2000-2001, FY 2001-2002 Management Information System electronic data files. Friedel provided an executive summary of the data for quick review.

FY 2002 Iowa Community Colleges Year-End Report Summary

Dr. Janice Friedel, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation reviewed the year-end data report. She covered the following reporting categories:

Credit Enrollment	Credit Awards
Non-Credit Enrollments	College Staff Positions
Community College Financial Information	Economic Development

Friedel noted that most data in the report was taken from the 2002 Management Information System electronic data files.

Leadership Development

Brenda Colby, Leadership Project Director, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, reported that the leadership development initiative had begun with the State Board establishing a priority of improving educational leadership. Information gathered through community conversations and a committee of practitioners and business leaders resulted in the adoption of the Iowa Standards for School Leaders, a change in principal licensing requirements, and rule changes for State Board approval of administrator preparation programs. The Department had also received both a planning and implementation grant from the State Action for Educational Leadership Partnership to study, develop, and implement administrator policies.

Colby said the partnership was supported by the Wallace-Readers' Digest SAELP (State Action Education Leadership Project) grant. The Partnership group had determined the final recommendations in the

following areas for the creation of the action plan that will support the efforts to prepare, support and retain outstanding educational leaders for our state:

- Priorities and ways of doing business
- The candidate pool
- Education and professional learning
- Licensure, certification and program accreditation
- Conditions of professional practice
- Governance structures

Colby indicated the Iowa Leadership Partnership group felt that priorities and ways of doing business was the toughest area to define.

Bullying Video

Linda Miller, Consultant, Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities, showed and discussed the video on bullying. She indicated that the Department had produced the video as a follow-up of the Bullying Conference. The conference participants felt there was a lack of awareness and that serious ramifications of bullying were being dealt with in schools. Miller reported that Safe and Drug Free funds were used to produce the video. The targeted audience would be middle schools throughout the state.

Funding for K-12 Education – the Local Perspective

Dr. Lee Tack, Administrator, Division of Financial and Information Services, introduced a panel of administrators that addressed the K-12 funding issues from their individual school district perspectives. The participants were as follows:

William Garner, Administrator, Arrowhead AEA 5
Lewis Finch, Superintendent, Cedar Rapids Community Schools
Paula Vincent, Associate Superintendent, Cedar Rapids Community Schools
Steve Graham, Business Manager, Cedar Rapids Community Schools
Robert Longmuir, Superintendent, New Hampton Community Schools
Bill Kruse, Superintendent, Storm Lake Community Schools

The panel discussed school district funding in Iowa and issues associated with the current funding plan. The focus of discussion was on local perspectives of Iowa's system of school finance—past, present and future issues. The overall discussion centered around the adequacy and equity of Iowa's finance plan.

Southwestern Community College Interim Accreditation Report

Beverly Bunker, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges and Career and Technical Education stated that an accreditation visit had been conducted for Southwestern Community College in October 2002. The items to be reviewed during an interim evaluation visit are outlined below:

- Recommendations made in the state comprehensive evaluation report
- Recommendations contained in NCA's evaluation report
- Documented issues, which have arisen since the comprehensive visit
- Issues, which may be found to merit evaluation more frequently than the comprehensive evaluations
- Concerns, which the college has identified and wishes to have reviewed
- Targeted topics for community college system evaluation
- Concerns identified through the program evaluation process

Bunker indicated that program evaluation was the chosen topic for review. Southwestern Community College was in the process of reviewing their college program evaluation process and they were seeking input from the accreditation team. She felt that great cooperation was received from President Crittendon and the staff on this review. A list of strengths and concerns were outlined in the final report and discussed with community college staff in the exit interview.

Motion: Don Roby moved and Mary Jean Montgomery seconded that the State Board approve Southwestern Community College's Interim Accreditation report and continuation of accreditation status.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Northwest Iowa Principal Leadership Academy

Director Ted Stilwill introduced this agenda item. The representatives of the Academy present for discussion were Dennis Bahr, Project Director, Kim Rost, AEA 5, Mary Maley, AEA 3, and Bonnie Baum, Superintendent. Kim Rost reported that in November the State Board had provided conditional approval to the program. The program is a collaborative training program of four Iowa Area Educational Agencies and the School Administrators of Iowa. Rost indicated that the program is constructed to provide students the knowledge and skills needed to attain the Iowa Standards for School Administrators.

The program was designed to address the needs in Iowa for strengthening and changing school and district leadership to meet the needs of the 21st century. Candidates successfully completing the program will be instructional leaders skilled in distributive leadership and able to lead standards-based reform that develops and improves all students' achievement. Approximately 10-20 outstanding principals would be selected for the initial program. The length of the program will vary for each candidate but cannot extend past 36 months.

The first module of the training program is completed and the remaining modules are to be presented to the review panel for consideration in May.

Strengthening Rural Education

Ted Stilwill, Director outlined tentative recommendations as concepts for developing legislation for strengthening rural education for the 2003 legislative session in cooperation with the Governor and the General Assembly. Stilwill indicated that maintaining quality education in rural Iowa had been a policy development priority of the State Board of Education and was the subject of a presentation to the Board in November.

The Program Elimination Commission had issued recommendations for reducing the number of very small districts or small high schools. He said that scarce financial resources in the state have more quickly clarified that declining student enrollments in many districts, particularly in the lower grades, threaten the viability of many district high schools in the future. This proposal suggested that the State Board of Education take a central role in recommending legislation to work toward high schools that can provide the opportunity Iowa students will need regardless of their district of residence.

Stilwill felt the legislation would establish incentives for both reorganization and for instructional and administrative sharing. The legislation would also authorize the State Board of Education to establish rules for a commission to oversee a mandatory planning process for districts that did not move toward viable high schools within a reasonable period of time. The Commission would make recommendations to the State Board with regard to the plans for those districts.

Motion: Charles Edwards, Jr. moved and Don Roby seconded that the State Board approve the conceptual framework to move forward in developing legislation for the 2003 session in cooperation with the Governor and General Assembly.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Director Stilwill handed out the proposed topics for the March State Board of Education meeting.

President Vincent adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

The State Board held a work session to discuss the Condition of Education Report.

Gene Vincent
President

Ted Stilwill, Director and
Executive Officer